

REMARKS

In the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 4, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over HASKIN et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,813,242) in view of MCALLISTER et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,560,218); rejects claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over HASKIN et al. in view of MCALLISTER et al., and further in view of GOYAL et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,466,985); rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over HASKIN et al. in view of MCALLISTER et al., and further in view of GNAUCK et al. (U.S. Reg. No. H2075); rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over HASKIN et al. in view of HSING et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,025); rejects claims 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over HASKIN et al. in view of HSING et al., and further in view of SALEH (U.S. Patent No. 7,002,917); rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over HASKIN et al. in view of SALEH; rejects claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over MCALLISTER et al. in view of SALEH; rejects claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over MCALLISTER et al. in view of SALEH, and further in view of HSING et al.; and objects to claims 13, 15-17, 19, and 20 as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejections.¹

By this amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1-4, 6, 15, 19, and 24 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend claims 8, 13, 14, 16-18, and 20 to improve form. No

¹ As Applicants' remarks with respect to the Examiner's rejections are sufficient to overcome these rejections, Applicants' silence as to assertions by the Examiner in the Office Action or certain requirements that may be applicable to such rejections (e.g., whether a reference constitutes prior art, motivation to combine references, assertions as to dependent claims, etc.) is not a concession by Applicants that such assertions are accurate or such requirements have been met, and Applicants reserve the right to analyze and dispute such assertions/requirements in the future.

new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. Claims 8-14, 16-18, 20, and 21 remain pending.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 13, 15-17, 19, and 20 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form to include all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 13 and 17 have been rewritten herein to include the features of their base claim. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 13 and 17 are in condition for immediate allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 BASED ON HASKIN ET AL. AND MCALLISTER ET AL.

Claims 1, 4, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over HASKIN et al. in view of MCALLISTER et al. Applicants cancel claims 1, 4, and 24 herein without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

*REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 BASED ON HASKIN ET AL.,
MCALLISTER ET AL., AND GOYAL ET AL.*

Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over HASKIN et al. in view of MCALLISTER et al., and further in view of GOYAL et al. Applicants cancel claims 2 and 3 herein without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

*REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 BASED ON HASKIN ET AL.,
MCALLISTER ET AL., AND GNAUCK ET AL.*

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over HASKIN et al. in view of MCALLISTER et al., and further in view of GNAUCK et al.

Applicants cancel claim 6 herein without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection of this claim moot.

*REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 BASED ON
HASKIN ET AL. AND HSING ET AL.*

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over HASKIN et al. in view of HSING et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants amend claim 8 herein to include the subject matter of claim 15 (now canceled), which the Examiner indicates includes allowable subject matter. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 8 is in condition for immediate allowance.

*REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 BASED ON
HASKIN ET AL., HSING ET AL., AND SALEH*

Claims 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over HASKIN et al. in view of HSING et al., and further in view of SALEH. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 9-12 depend from claim 8. While not acquiescing in the rejection of claims 9-12, Applicants submit that the disclosure of SALEH does not remedy the deficiencies in the disclosures of HASKIN et al. and HSING et al. with respect to claim 8. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 9-12 are patentable over HASKIN et al., HSING et al., and SALEH, whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 8.

*REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 BASED ON
HASKIN ET AL. AND SALEH*

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over HASKIN et al. in view of SALEH. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants submit that claim 14 recites features similar to (yet possibly of different scope than) features described above with respect to claim 8. Moreover, Applicants amend claim 14 herein to include the subject matter of claim 15 (now canceled), which the Examiner indicates includes allowable subject matter. HASKIN et al. and SALEH, whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, do not disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in claim 14. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 14 is in condition for immediate allowance.

*REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 BASED ON
MCALLISTER ET AL. AND SALEH*

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over MCALLISTER et al. in view of SALEH. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants amend claim 18 herein to include the subject matter of claim 19, which the Examiner indicates includes allowable subject matter. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 18 is in condition for immediate allowance.

*REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 BASED ON
MCALLISTER ET AL., SALEH, AND HSING ET AL.*

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over MCALLISTER et al. in view of SALEH, and further in view of HSING et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 21 depends from claim 18. While not acquiescing in the rejection of claim 21, Applicants submit that the disclosure of HSING et al. does not remedy the deficiencies in the disclosures of MCALLISTER et al. and SALEH with respect to claim 18. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 21 is patentable over MCALLISTER et al.,

SALEH, and HSING et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 18.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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